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*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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May 1, 2000

### **Striped Bass Public Meeting for Comment on New Interstate Fishery Management Plan**

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Massachusetts Fisheries Commission will host an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) public meeting to hear comment on a Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Striped Bass. The meeting will take place 7 P.M. on May 23 at the Needham High School.

Approval of the PID is the first step in developing Amendment 6. Currently, striped bass is managed under Amendment 5 to the Interstate FMP, which was developed to provide overall guidance and policy to the management of a recovered resource. Its goals include preventing overfishing, maintaining a sustainable spawning stock biomass, achieving equitable management measures among jurisdictions and identifying critical habitat. Over the last several years a series of addenda have been developed and implemented to detail annual management measures. This process has resulted in increasing frustration on the part of fishery managers, scientists and fishermen. Frustration based on not only the lack of consistency in state management measures from year to year, but also the desire for an improved quality fishery, and concerns about increased fishing pressure on striped bass. The new FMP is being developed to address the above concerns, as well as other long-term scientific, management and policy issues.

Following this initial stage of public information gathering, the Striped Bass Management Board will evaluate potential management alternatives. The Board will then develop a draft amendment to the FMP with the preferred management measures identified for public review and comment.

Copies of the Striped bass PID can be obtained by either contacting Vanessa Jones, ASFMC Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the ASMFC webpage under "Public Input" at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org). Written comments should be forwarded to Robert Beal, ASMFC Striped Bass Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, N.W., Sixth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax). Copies of the PID could also be obtained at DMF Boston headquarters or at its field stations in Gloucester, Pocasset and Martha's Vineyard.

#### *Directions to Needham High School:*

*Route 128*

*Exit 19B (Needham – Highland Avenue)*

*At second traffic light, turn left onto Webber Street*

*1/3 mile on right is back of high school*

*Pass high school and take first right onto Kingsbury Street*

***First right is entrance to high school auditorium***